

PREVENTION

IDAHO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND NEWSLETTER

History of the Children's Trust Fund

In 1982 the Department of Health & Welfare was able to change the Idaho Child Protective Act to bring it into compliance with the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Federal grant monies from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect were made available to the DHW for achieving federal compliance.

From those grant funds, a statewide effort spearheaded by DHW employee Ed Van Dusen was put together to work on child abuse issues. This group became the Idaho Network for Children and later affiliated as a state chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Information from the NCCAN and NCPA mentioned a new movement starting across the U.S. to prevent child abuse through the development of Children's Trust Funds.

Through Children's Trust Funds, states were able fund child abuse *prevention* programs. Funding for *prevention* of child abuse was a new concept at the time. Prior to this, all funding and resources were directed toward helping abused children recover and heal from their abuse. Ed was passionate about starting a Children's Trust Fund in Idaho, and turned to Idaho Senator Terry Reilly for help.

Senator Reilly saw the wisdom in working to *prevent* child abuse, and agreed to carry legislation to enable Idaho to have a Children's Trust Fund for child abuse prevention programs. Sadly, Senator Reilly was killed in a plane crash before he was able to do so. Ed initially believed that the idea of a Children's Trust Fund died along with Senator Reilly.

But in 1984, DHW director Rose Bowman sought staff recommendations for new children's programs for Idaho and learned of the Trust Fund effort. She discussed this with Governor John Evans who authorized her to have staff form a statewide work group to work on the development of a Children's Trust Fund for Idaho.

Ed once again took the lead on this issue for the Dept. of Health & Welfare, and recruited some wonderful people to work on realizing

the dream of an Idaho Children's Trust Fund. The group was composed of Mary Reichman of Pocatello, Judge Lowell Castleton of Boise, Larry Chase of Nampa, Bob Glaisyer of Boise, Reverend Fred Elwood of Twin Falls, Gus Hein of Boise, Deputy Attorney General Marc Haws of Boise, Robert Tyndall of Lewiston, Terry McFee of Idaho Falls and department staff.

Representative Pam (Bengson) Ahrens (now Director of the Idaho Department of Administration) sponsored the legislation in the House and Senator Marti Calabretta in the Senate. The Idaho Children's Trust Account was signed into law on March 7, 1985 by Governor Evans. The name was later changed to the Idaho Children's Trust Fund.

In their wisdom, the legislators who created the Children's Trust Fund built in a wonderful mechanism to fund the organization *without using tax dollars*; taxpayers are able to voluntarily donate to the Trust Fund when they file their state tax return. According to the statute, half of the money donated went back out to local community programs in grants, and the other half of the donated money went into an interest bearing account to build an endowment. In the past 20 years not one cent of tax money has been requested to help operate the Trust Fund.

Ed Van Dusen has been the guardian angel for the Idaho Children's Trust Fund for the 20 years it has been in existence, and also for the several years of work it took to bring the whole idea to fruition. Ed re-joined our board again as the Health & Welfare Department's representative in the fall of 2003, and as he nears retirement from the department after over 30 years of service, Ed's dedication to the Children's Trust Fund is as strong as ever.

Thank you seems so inadequate, but we are very thankful to Ed Van Dusen, and all the founding members for their work on behalf of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund and the children of Idaho.

Protecting Idaho children from abuse and neglect.

Idaho Children's Trust Fund Board Members

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Nancy Hausner
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Idaho Children's Trust Fund Celebrates 20 Years!

Join us as we celebrate 20 years of working together with community partners throughout the state to help prevent child abuse and neglect in Idaho. A 20th Anniversary Celebration Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2005 at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in Boise. Everyone is invited to celebrate and acknowledge the accomplishments of partnership and cooperation in helping to keep kids safe.



Idaho Children's Trust Fund 20th Anniversary

Celebration Banquet
1985—2005

Thursday, April 14, 2005

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner and Speakers

Owyhee Plaza Hotel, 1109 Main Street, Boise, Idaho

\$20 per person or \$35 per couple

Please RSVP to 208-386-9317

Are you a donor through your Idaho State Income Tax form? Please let us thank you personally!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, _____ State, _____ Zip _____

I prefer to remain anonymous, but I live in
_____ County.

You may also email this information to hausnern@idhw.state.id.us

The vast majority of the money we raise to give out in grants comes to us through the generous donations that Idahoans give through their state income tax form. Due to privacy laws, the ICTF is unable to learn the names of tax check-off donors. If you would like to be acknowledged, please let us know your name and address so we can send you a personal thank you.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

"Safe Children and Healthy Families Are a Shared Responsibility"

We all have a role to play in building strong communities where individuals, families, and children are valued and supported. All families want the same things for their children – a safe home, a good education, and a chance to succeed.

Research has shown that parents and other caretakers who have resources and support are more likely to provide safe and healthy homes for their children. Specifically, parents need a network of supportive personal relationships and other resources for coping with stress, knowledge and understanding of critical child development issues, and financial and other concrete supports such as shelter, food and childcare.

A lack of these critical supports, on the other hand, can cause otherwise well-intentioned parents to make poor choices that can lead to neglect or abuse. As we learn more about why child abuse and neglect occur, more organizations, agencies, and tribal communities are

recognizing the best way to promote prevention is to provide parents with the skills and resources they need to understand and meet their children's emotional, physical, and developmental needs and protect their children from harm.

Parenting is one of the toughest and most important jobs in America, and we all have a stake in ensuring that parents have access to the tools and support they need to be successful. With the help of family support activities, many families are able to find the strength and resources they need to raise safe, healthy, and productive children.

You can help create a supportive community for parents by:

- Getting to know your neighbors
- Helping a family deal with a crisis or stress
- Reaching out to the children in your community
- Getting involved in a local school, as a volunteer or a mentor
- Keeping your neighborhood safe

Remember that anything you do to support kids and parents in your family, neighborhood, and community helps strengthen families and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

Reprinted from: *Safe Children and Healthy Families Are a Shared Responsibility*
<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/index.cfm>



Funded Programs Across the State Improve the Lives of Children and Families

Idaho Children's Trust Fund provided funding for 22 community-based child abuse and neglect prevention projects throughout Idaho for the 2004 – 2005 fiscal year. Mid-year reports for this year's grant recipients were due January 31, 2005. The results from the reports are excellent.

These programs are working with parents to teach positive discipline techniques, to provide support services to families with medically fragile or developmentally delayed infants, to encourage parents of teenagers to utilize effective strategies for working with teens, and providing services to allow homeless families to come in off the streets and create a stable, loving home for their children. These descriptions just begin to scratch the surface of the work going on.

In Idaho Falls, Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho works to support families with a parent or child with disabilities. In Nampa, Open Arms Baby Boutique provides support, education and health incentives to new mothers. In Lewiston, Independent School District #1 teaches "Love & Logic" parenting classes throughout the year. And in Coeur d'Alene, the Panhandle Health District provides home visits by a public health nurse to families in challenging situations.

Child abuse and neglect prevention is hard to measure, but building strengths, knowledge, skills and behaviors is much easier to measure. Child abuse and neglect prevention can be accomplished by building parent and family strengths related to child development, discipline, communication and access to additional supports. All of the ICTF funded programs do a wonderful job of supporting, educating and strengthening families.





Save the Date!

6th Annual

“Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect” Conference
April 14 & 15, 2005 at
the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in Boise

There's still time to register!
Only \$95 for 11.0 CEU's • POST Certified

Keynote Presentations:

The Effects of Trauma on Parenting: Why We Have Reason to be Hopeful *by Dave Ziegler, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC*

Trauma can have devastating impacts on people's lives, their health, their relationships, and their ability to parent. There is growing evidence that when traumatized individuals get the help and support they need – their lives, health, relationships and success as parents can improve substantially.

Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education *by Nilofer Ahsan*

The Center for the Study of Social Policy has been documenting how small-scale, affordable but significant changes in early childhood programs can support parents under stress, improve their parenting, and thus prevent harm to children. Grounded in growing research about protective factors that are linked to abuse and neglect prevention, this approach does not cost large amounts of money, and builds on a workforce and literally thousands of programs that are already in contact with many of the nation's at-risk children. This keynote will discuss the implications for how we think about child abuse and neglect prevention.

Other Workshops:

- Building Resilient Families • Beyond Cinco de Mayo and Sombreros • Barriers to the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse • Coaching Parents • Stewards of Children • Crisis Respite 101 • Traditional Indigenous Parenting • Parenting with Dignity • Preventing Child Abuse in Youth Sports • Internet Crimes Against Children • Religious Responses to Child Abuse • Shifting the Patterns of Attachment • Parenting Approaches that Work with the Most Difficult Children

208-386-9317

Registration form and details will be available on our website.
<http://idahochildrenstrustfund.state.id.us>

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